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## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending September 5, 2004

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***This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)***

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** It was another wonderful week of weather for farmers in Pennsylvania. Dry weather prevailed in most areas, allowing farmers time in the fields before the remnants of Hurricane Frances hit later this week. Soil moisture declined slightly this past week because of the dry weather. Six days were suitable for field work; principal farm activities included baling the 3<sup>rd</sup> cutting of hay, spreading manure, applying herbicides and pesticides, harvesting tobacco, cutting silage, and equipment maintenance to prepare for fall seeding and harvest.

**Crops:** Corn is progressing quite well in most areas and is reported to be in very good condition. Twenty-five percent of this year's corn crop has already matured, which is well ahead of previous years' trends. This has allowed for an early corn harvest as well. Soybean conditions remained very good throughout the state. Ninety percent of this year's soybean crop is rated as either good or excellent. The potato harvest is progressing as expected and is on track with the 5-year average. The tobacco harvest is nearly complete as 90 percent of tobacco in the state had been harvested as of last week. This is well ahead of the 5-year average of 47 percent. Several reports stated that last week was the best of the entire summer for making hay. Many farmers were out baling their third cutting of alfalfa with many more starting on their fourth cutting. Depending on how much rainfall is received the rest of the summer and beginning of autumn could well determine the number of farmers able to go out and get a quality fourth cutting of hay. The second cutting of timothy clover is nearly finished and is now 88 percent complete. This is well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. The overall quality of hay made improved greatly from last week with 67 percent being graded as either good or excellent.

Conditions remained favorable in areas of the state growing fruits. The peach harvest slowed a bit and was 86 percent complete as of last week. This is running slightly behind the 5-year average. The apple harvest also slowed a bit and is now 38 percent complete. This is still well ahead of last year. The grape harvest is in full swing as well with 18 percent of grapes being harvested. This is well ahead of last year at the same time.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions were unchanged for the most part despite the continued relief from rainfall. During the last week, the pasture condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 17 percent excellent.

**U.S. As of August 29, 2004:** Highlights: Despite a brief period of warm weather, temperatures in the northern Great Plains and northwestern Corn Belt averaged below normal, further delaying summer crop development. Along the middle and northern Atlantic Coast, conditions were mostly dry, with near-normal temperatures. Corn: Doughing advanced to 79 percent complete, 7 percentage points behind last year and 9 points behind normal. Denting had occurred over 46 percent of the acreage, compared with 50 percent last year and 57 percent for the 5-year average. Eleven percent of the crop was mature, the same as last year but 2 points behind normal. Soybeans: Ninety-five percent of the crop was at or beyond the pod setting stage, 1 point ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Leaves had begun dropping on 6 percent of the acreage, the same as last year but 1 point behind normal. Small Grains: Growers had harvested 85 percent of the oat acreage, compared with 95 percent last year and 93 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest was complete in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota and neared completion in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

# Weather Data For Week Ending September 5, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 5, 2004					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	81	54	69	2	0.20	1	19.30	0.24	74	2,253	101	3,657
Franklin	83	53	68	3	0.50	3	30.69	9.11	90	2,166	144	3,590
Meadville	82	52	67	3	0.79	2	25.15	3.69	84	2,048	195	3,442
Mercer	82	41	64	-2	0.14	3	23.96	3.54	73	1,760	-241	3,141
Springboro	83	51	66	-2	1.01	4	26.47	7.62	90	2,006	-126	3,389
Warren	82	52	68	4	0.48	3	32.46	10.91	96	2,032	67	3,440
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	79	46	64	4	0.77	2	22.68	1.10	93	1,680	238	3,053
Emporium	86	52	69	7	1.11	2	28.40	6.81	84	2,177	559	3,599
Kane	76	42	59	-2	0.12	2	26.50	4.60	79	1,071	-344	2,380
Laporte	80	52	67	3	1.40	1	33.28	13.42	89	1,881	-135	3,269
Lock Haven	88	54	71	5	0.40	1	31.25	11.64	68	2,427	296	3,914
Port Allegany	83	49	66	6	1.78	2	25.03	4.69	80	1,832	245	3,206
Renovo	85	55	70	5	0.90	2	26.05	6.44	73	2,370	239	3,827
Ridgway	82	48	65	4	0.34	2	28.27	6.68	71	1,816	198	3,195
Stevenson Dam	85	54	70	8	2.09	2	27.71	6.12	77	2,251	633	3,691
Towanda	87	54	70	6	0.00	0	23.08	6.60	78	2,276	244	3,707
Wellsboro	82	49	65	5	1.31	2	28.82	12.26	76	1,808	277	3,191
Williamsport	86	53	71	5	0.01	1	24.45	5.11	83	2,562	213	4,059
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	84	50	67	5	2.19	1	25.54	6.73	62	1,949	205	3,339
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	52	70	4	0.12	1	21.02	2.74	69	2,376	145	3,842
Susquehanna	88	54	72	10	1.39	1	26.46	6.34	75	2,317	655	3,760
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	83	53	68	3	0.40	2	27.71	7.19	93	2,174	81	3,598
New Castle	85	53	70	5	0.10	2	26.35	7.78	71	2,391	298	3,826
Slippery Rock	83	52	67	4	0.84	3	27.51	7.56	91	2,243	355	3,688
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	85	52	68	3	0.76	2	22.51	4.79	80	2,326	93	3,767
DuBois	80	51	66	3	0.08	4	29.01	8.42	101	2,018	77	3,430
Lewistown	88	55	72	4	0.00	0	22.32	3.14	66	2,576	131	4,063
Middletown	87	61	73	4	0.00	0	28.18	9.31	65	2,944	189	4,468
Prince Gallitzi	86	50	66	3	1.60	2	27.72	4.87	73	2,057	259	3,468
Selinsgrove	86	55	71	5	0.00	0	25.00	5.31	73	2,497	204	3,972
State College	84	56	70	4	1.53	1	25.67	7.74	69	2,400	191	3,856
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	87	54	71	3	0.75	1	23.21	2.59	63	2,681	156	4,187
Lehighton	86	54	70	3	0.47	1	28.20	7.73	80	2,397	-45	3,875
Matamoras	85	52	69	3	1.92	3	23.67	2.94	65	2,108	-103	3,540
Tobyhanna	86	50	68	8	1.56	4	29.40	7.44	91	2,042	512	3,453
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	57	70	4	0.24	2	20.56	1.55	74	2,582	342	4,056
Derry	86	53	69	3	0.58	2	31.22	11.43	83	2,295	178	3,747
Myersdale	84	49	66	-2	0.73	2	23.79	2.27	68	1,885	-196	3,285
Mount Pleasant	84	53	68	4	0.66	2	27.80	5.28	64	2,320	429	3,763
Pittsburgh Intl	82	55	70	3	0.24	2	26.26	8.35	76	2,616	273	4,088
Rector	88	54	70	6	0.42	4	31.08	8.56	91	2,352	461	3,807
Waynesburg	84	54	69	3	0.13	2	25.39	5.71	76	2,395	220	3,844
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	89	57	72	3	0.46	1	28.42	10.80	71	2,690	0	4,184
Everett	87	49	67	0	0.00	0	23.60	6.30	63	2,078	-141	3,484
Hanover	88	55	72	3	0.00	0	26.19	8.57	62	2,795	105	4,293
Shippensburg	87	56	72	3	0.21	1	28.79	11.54	67	2,829	157	4,324
South Mountain	83	53	68	3	0.04	1	24.73	7.01	56	2,288	62	3,725
York	88	54	71	2	0.00	0	22.32	3.16	58	2,776	99	4,281
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	91	56	73	6	2.80	1	29.38	9.36	64	2,975	564	4,504
Hamburg	87	55	72	6	0.09	2	26.99	3.86	73	2,681	468	4,186
Hopewell	87	58	72	2	0.73	1	29.35	8.53	87	2,737	-90	4,244
Lancaster	86	57	72	3	0.03	2	27.73	7.49	71	2,774	227	4,289
Neshaminy Falls	88	57	73	5	0.65	1	26.34	3.06	60	2,923	405	4,444
New Holland	87	58	73	4	0.16	1	28.04	7.80	72	2,788	241	4,289
Philadelphia	88	63	76	4	0.41	1	26.30	6.51	61	3,204	294	4,740
Philadelphia NE	88	60	75	3	0.65	1	28.04	8.25	65	3,111	201	4,644
Reading	88	57	72	4	0.56	3	27.45	5.90	65	2,821	315	4,340
Valley Forge Na	91	54	72	2	1.34	1	28.00	7.18	58	2,821	-6	4,330
Willow Grove	86	59	73	5	0.52	1	22.92	-0.36	66	2,905	387	4,433

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).  
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.  
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.  
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.  
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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

**Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.**

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - - The best week of the entire summer. Weather was beautiful. Farmers were making excellent quality hay all week.

**FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts (EXT)** - - Excellent week for field work; six days of sunny weather. Corn silage harvest is just starting.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** - - No rain this week allowed for silage harvest to continue throughout the county. Areas near the Maryland line are nearly through with silage harvest while northern sections of county are now just beginning. Yields are not exceptional. Soybeans are beginning to dry down as well in the southern parts of the county. Apple crop is going to be early. The canners are opening up after Labor Day for delivery of Golden Delicious and other early varieties. It has been over two weeks without rain and soil moisture level is becoming short.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler** - - In spite of the foggy mornings, this past week was some of the best hay making weather all season.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel J. Linde** - - Another wonderful week for harvesting crops. Silage choppers are going full-speed. Lots of dry hay being made. Tobacco harvest is almost over. Farmers are no-tilling cover crops into corn stubble. Efforts are being made to sell farm produce directly to the consumers. I'm thankful I'm farming in Pennsylvania and not in Florida this month.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - - August rainfall was below normal until the 30th when 2-4 inches fell across the county once again. More hay was made over Labor Day weekend with our eyes to the south wondering when and if Frances will impact us. Earliest corn is nearing black layer with most corn at <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> milk line. In the earliest soybean fields, the leaves are beginning to yellow.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - - This was a very good week for hay making and for the development of soybeans and corn. The corn and soybeans made great strides in development and maturity. A few farmers have begun harvesting corn as high moisture corn and the cutting of corn silage is beginning as well. Both crops are looking very good. The main activities were hay making, preparing for fall seeding, cutting silage and general maintenance.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - - With little rain and warm temperatures, this was the best harvesting week of the season. Finally enough consecutive dry days so that some very nice hay could be baled. Early-planted corn is maturing quickly and silage harvest could soon begin in these fields. Both the corn and soybeans continue to look very good.

**YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz (FSA)** - - With an extended dry spell and an early maturing crop, corn silage harvest is ahead of schedule. Also, early corn for grain harvest begins as producers fine tune machinery for the big push. Hay making conditions were the best of the year.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 5, 2004**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	26	12	19
Corn, dough	91	69	81
Corn, dent	71	34	50
Corn, mature	25	4	13
Corn, harvested	8	0	0
Corn silage, harvested	32	8	23
Barley, planted	5	2	6
Tobacco, harvested	90	36	47
Potatoes, harvested	32	28	32
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	83	64	76
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	30	20	34
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	88	72	77
Peaches, harvested	86	89	93
Apples, harvested	38	31	29
Grapes, harvested	18	4	6

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 5, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	3	10	42	44
Soybeans	0	2	8	47	43
Quality of hay made	2	7	24	43	24
Pasture	4	10	25	44	17
Apples	0	9	24	52	15

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